



## Kia Ora Campers!

Welcome one and all to this months Experts Corner!

This month I thought we'd tackle some legal issues that I have been receiving questions on. The dreaded LTNZ regulations! We have recently discovered, to our chagrin, that the 6 berth motorhomes (which weigh in with a GVM of 4250) are too heavy to be processed under a WoF and instead require a CoF. This goes to show that even though we work *in* the industry and deal with LTNZ and its agents on an almost daily basis, we have obviously missed the fine print somewhere along the way!

So I have trawled through pages and pages, website after website, and talked for hours with all the official companies and organisations to get the below information for you! So pin it up on the fridge for future reference!!

Firstly, let's run through the abbreviations that you will see on documentation, advertisements and those labels on the windscreen of your motorhome and try to explain what each of them *mean* for you:

### **WoF** - Warrant of Fitness

The WoF is the inspection done by Land Transport New Zealand (LTNZ) or their agent (eg, AA Vehicle Testing, VINZ, VTNZ etc) to ensure that your vehicle is safe to be on the road. If your vehicle has a GVM of **less than 3500kg**, then it requires a Warrant of Fitness. A WoF is valid for one year if your vehicle is less than 6 years old (taken from the date of first registration in New Zealand as a new vehicle) after which point the WoF is valid for a 6 month period from the time of inspection.

### **CoF** - Certificate of Fitness

The CoF is the inspection done by Land Transport New Zealand (LTNZ) or their agent (eg, AA Vehicle Testing, VINZ, VTNZ etc) to ensure that your vehicle is safe to be on the road. If your vehicle has a GVM of **more than 3500kg**, then it requires a Certificate of Fitness. A CoF is valid for 6 months from the time of inspection regardless of age of the vehicle.

### **WoEF** - Warrant of Electrical Fitness

The WoEF is the inspection of the electrical components and connections of your motorhome and must be carried out by a Licensed Electrical Inspector. (You can find them in the Yellow Pages, or contact the New Zealand Motorhome and Caravan Association) This includes the supply cable, the electrical outlets, fuse board and RCD. The WoEF is valid for four (4) years from the time of inspection.

### **Reg** - Registration or Motor Vehicle Licence

Motor Vehicle Licensing is the fee paid to use your vehicle on public roads. The fee helps to pay for roading projects and road safety programmes. Motor Vehicle Licensing is often incorrectly called Registration. However, registration is different - it is where a vehicle is added to the Motor Vehicle Register and given registration plates. The combination of numbers and letters on the plate is used to identify the motor vehicle. Your Motor Vehicle Licence is calculated on a continuous expiry period. What this means is that when you pay for renewing your license, you do so from the date it expires, rather than the date you pay for it and the licence gets issued (as with WoF's or CoF's)



### **RUC - Road User Charges**

RUC's are charged on any vehicle that weighs more than 3500kg on its GVM, or is powered by an alternate means of fuel that is not taxed at the source (ie. diesel, electricity). This tax goes into the same fund as that of your Motor Vehicle License. Motorhomes, cars, trucks or other personal use vehicles that are eligible for RUC's will purchase a *distance* ticket in multiples of 1000km. These licenses are also continuous, so you need to keep an eye on your odometer!

### **GVM - Gross Vehicle Mass**

Your GVM is calculated as the maximum permitted weight of your vehicle and this includes your fuel and fluids, passengers, accessories, crew and gear. You will find this figure on your CoL in the front windscreen. Basically it is the maximum you are allowed to weigh on the road, so if you were pulled into a weighbridge, you should be under this weight. This weight is set by the manufacturer of your vehicle and can only be altered by application to Land Transport New Zealand.

### **GCM - Gross Combination Mass**

This is the maximum weight permissible when taking into account a towed mass (ie, a trailer, car or boat) So if you are towing a wee Suzuki Vitara behind your motorhome, you would add the GVM of the Suzuki to the GVM of your motorhome, and hope that it is less than or equal to the GCM of the motorhome!

### **Tare - Tare Weight**

Also known as the "unladen weight" this is what your vehicles manufacturer has stated as being the weight of the vehicle, its fuel and fluid and the equipment and accessories on it that are necessary for its operation for the purpose for which it was designed.

### **MTM - Maximum Towed Mass (followed by -braked or -unbraked)**

This relates to the GCM, and tells you how much weight your vehicle can tow dependant upon whether it is a braked unit or not. If you add the MTM -braked figure to the GVM, this figure should be the GCM...

### **VIN - Vehicle Identification Number**

This is the 17 characters that make up your identification plate which is *usually* affixed to the firewall of your vehicle. These letters and numbers can be "decoded" by Land Transport to get information about your vehicle.

### **CoL - Certificate of Loading**

This is the label in your windscreen that certifies the loading and weight limits of your vehicle. It includes the GVM, the GCM, the MTM and the Tare weight.

Phew! Next is the issue of drivers licence classes. A lot of people get quite confused as to what class they need to drive certain vehicles, so here are all the classes listed, and what each class allows for. Please note that this list shows what each class of licence allows for, but does not include the various rules for the learner and restricted sections of each licence.



### **Class 1 - Car Licence**

A holder of a Class 1 learner, restricted or full licence can drive:

- a vehicle that has a GCM of 4500kg or less (this includes tractors or combinations of vehicles, but does **not** include motorcycles)
- a moped or all-terrain vehicle
- any campervan or tradesperson's vehicle with a GVM of 6000kg or less and an on-road weight not exceeding 4500kg.

*NOTE:* a tradesperson's vehicle means a motor vehicle that has a body designed or adapted for use principally by tradespersons to carry special-purpose trade equipment or trade goods (excluding general freight).

### **Class 2 - Medium Rigid Vehicle**

A holder of a Class 2 learner or full licence can drive:

- any rigid vehicle (including any tractor) with a GVM of more than 4500kg but less than 18,001kg
- any combination vehicle with a GCM of 12,000kg or less
- any combination vehicle consisting of a rigid vehicle with a GVM of 18,000kg or less towing a light trailer (GVM of 3500kg or less)
- any rigid vehicle with a GVM of more than 18,000kg that has no more than two axles
- any vehicle covered in Class 1

### **Class 3 - Medium Combination**

A holder of a Class 3 learner or full licence can drive:

- any combination vehicle with a GCM of more than 12,000kg but less than 25,001kg
- any vehicle covered in classes 1 and 2

### **Class 4 - Heavy Rigid**

A holder of a Class 4 learner or full licence can drive:

- any rigid vehicle (including any tractor) with a GVM of more than 18,000kg
- any combination vehicle consisting of a rigid vehicle with a GVM of more than 18,000kg towing a light trailer (GVM of 3500kg or less)
- vehicles covered in classes 1 and 2, but not Class 3

### **Class 5 - Heavy Combination**

A holder of a Class 5 learner or full licence can drive:

- any combination vehicle with a GCM of more than 25,000kg
- vehicles covered by classes 1, 2, 3 and 4.

### **Class 6 - Motorcycle**

A holder of a learner, restricted or full Class 6 licence can drive:

- any motorcycle, moped or all-terrain vehicle



## Drivers Licence Endorsements

In addition to holding the correct class of licence for the weight of the vehicle you are operating, you will need an appropriate current endorsement to operate a some kinds of vehicles or services.

A passenger (**P**) endorsement is required to transport fare paying passengers (eg bus and taxi drivers).

A vehicle recovery (**V**) endorsement is required to operate a tow truck.

A driving instructor (**I**) endorsement is required to earn money teaching people to drive.

A testing officer (**O**) endorsement is required to conduct driving tests.

A dangerous goods (**D**) endorsement is required to transport dangerous or hazardous goods (eg explosives).

A forklift (**F**), roller (**R**) or tracks (**T**) endorsement is required to operate a forklift or special-type vehicle that runs on rollers or tracks.

- A Class 1 licence in conjunction with an F/R/T endorsement will permit you to operate the appropriate vehicle with a GVM of 18,000 kg or less.
- A Class 2 licence in conjunction with an F/R/T endorsement will permit you to operate the appropriate vehicle with a GVM exceeding 18,000 kg.

A wheels (**W**) endorsement is required to operate special-type vehicles that run on wheels.

- A Class 1 licence in conjunction with a W endorsement will permit you to operate special-type wheeled vehicles:
  - with a GVM not more than 4500 kg
- with a GVM more than 4500 kg but less than 18,001 kg if operated at less than 30 km/h.
- A Class 2 licence in conjunction with a W endorsement will permit you to operate special-type wheeled vehicles:
  - with a GVM less than 18.001 kg
- with a GVM more than 18,000 kg if operated at less than 30 km/h.
- A Class 4 licence in conjunction with a W endorsement will permit you to operate special-type wheeled vehicles exceeding 18,000 kg.

That is it for this months "Experts Corner", if there is anything you would like to see in the experts corner, please let us know! Send us an email, write us a letter, give us a call or drop on in for a chat!